

# The INK WELL

NEWSLETTER OF THE

WEBUTUCK COUNTRY SCHOOLHOUSE ASSOCIATION

Spring 2008

## Happy Birthday, Indian Rock Schoolhouse!

When the little schoolhouse on Mygatt Road first appeared in the deeds in 1858, who could have foreseen that by 1940 the building would be standing empty, and that by 1990 it would be all but a ruin surrounded by brush and trees.

It's 2008, and the schoolhouse is again filled with children. Every year they plant a garden and trees in the schoolyard. They come with their parents to picnics and workshops. Their grandparents come there to remember their days going to school in a one-room building much like Indian Rock. The schoolhouse is restored by volunteers and painted red. There

are new desks inside. The big pavilion behind the school is a wonderful place for picnics and concerts.

Last year the Schoolhouse Association made Indian Rock a year-round tradition by developing a winter outreach program consisting of a series of "trunk shows." The large suitcases contain historical objects,

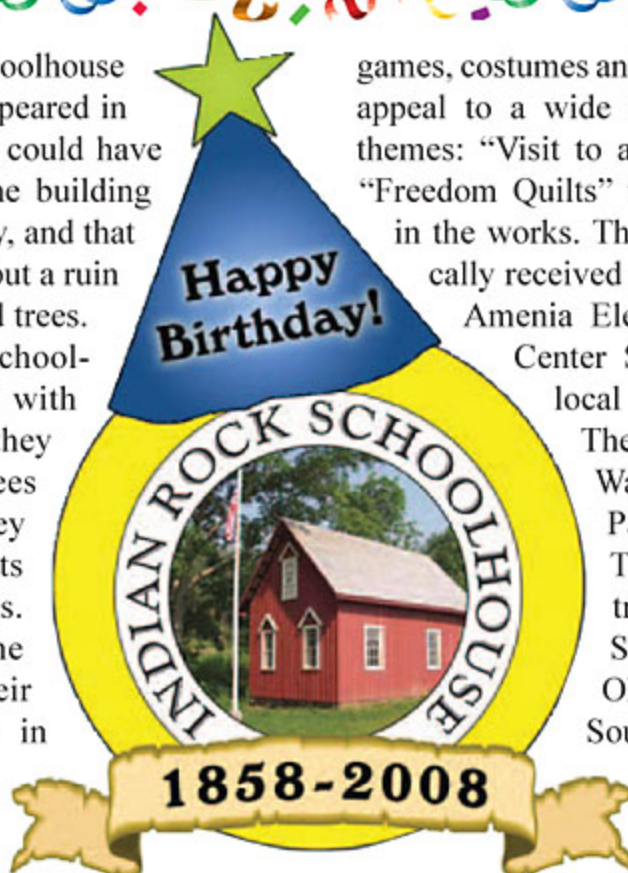
games, costumes and learning materials which appeal to a wide audience. There are two themes: "Visit to a One-room School", and "Freedom Quilts" with several more trunks in the works. They have been enthusiastically received at Maplebrook, Kildonan, Amenia Elementary School, Sharon Center School, and by adults at local organizations and sites:

The Amenia Lions Club, the Wassaucus Seniors and the Hyde Park Historical Society. This spring the trunks will travel to Dutchess Day School, the Fountains, and OFA Friendship Center in South Amenia.

A new trunk is being created. Called the "Arbor Day" Trunk, it features books and information on the importance of trees

and conservation of that resource, as well as legendary tree heroes: Pine Cone Pete, Johnny Appleseed, Paul Bunyan and George Washington among others. The Webutuck PTA is the sponsor of this new trunk.

There are many reasons for Indian Rock to celebrate, so join us in 2008 for one of our many 150th birthday parties.



*Member Judy Carlson created the 150th logo as a birthday present for Indian Rock*

Watch for information on coming events! [www.IndianRockSchoolhouse.com](http://www.IndianRockSchoolhouse.com)



# *See you at Indian Rock for Arbor Day Fun— April 30 and May 1*

First and second graders from the Amenia Elementary School will help Pine Cone Pete, in the person of Andy Durbridge, Rudy Eschbach and Beth Murphy (the Pine Cone Princess) at Indian Rock School's two-day observance of Arbor Day on Wednesday, April 30 and Thursday May 1st.

Besides continuing the planting activities of previous years, this year's outing will introduce several new features including the international note of planting a peace pole. Also, there will be visits from our new friends at the World Peace Sanctuary and Temple Beth David who will share the Arbor Day traditions of Japan and Israel with all assembled.

While some of the children are planting trees, others will gather in the restored schoolhouse for an introduction to education in a one-room school and to talk about Arbor Day around the world with Miss Murphy. Perhaps they will be able to sing the "Pine Cone Pete Song" with Margaret O'Brien, the music teacher.



*Arbor Day 2007 – Mike O'Neil plants "his tree" with Pine Cone Pete and students.*

Since the revival of the Arbor Day tradition on the grounds of the historic Indian Rock Schoolhouse, two flowering crab trees and five evergreens have been planted by Amenia school children. This year there will be three Eastern Red Cedars, thanks to Twin Brooks Garden Center in Millbrook, who have generously donated a tree to our efforts both this year and last.

Pine Cone Pete tells us that the cedars will provide shelter for the birds in the winter in our wildlife schoolyard. The new shrubs planted last year will provide berries for them to eat. An interesting note: the roof of Indian Rock Schoolhouse is made of cedar and the peace pole is made of cedar too!

We have invited many old friends including Mike O'Neil, former principal of AES, and Gail Gamble retired first grade teacher, to join us...and everyone is welcome. Parents, younger siblings, and friends are invited to both days of the celebration. Come around 11 am. Bring a bag lunch and drink to the picnic pavilion for a celebration of Indian Rock's 150th birthday. There will be complementary birthday treats provided by our friends Joe McEnroe, the Bank of Millbrook and Freshtown of Amenia.

## **NEW THIS YEAR! RUDY'S GARDEN DAY**

This year, for the first time, Rudy Eschbach will be visiting classrooms with vegetable seeds for the children to start in school then bring to Indian Rock's garden where they will transplant the young plants. They will be planting the garden in mid-to-late May...please come and lend a hand!





*When are we going to Indian Rock Schoolhouse?*

## CALENDAR FOR 2008 – 2009

### CALENDAR FOR 2008-2009

<b>Arbor Days</b>	April 30th & May 1st, 11 am
<b>Garden Day</b> with Rudy	mid- to late May
<b>Annual Meeting and Pot-luck</b>	May TBA
<b>Indian Rock at Strawberry Fair</b>	June 14
<b>Kid Olympics &amp; Family picnic</b>	July TBA

### TRUNK SHOW PRESENTATIONS '08

The Fountains, Millbrook	March 31
O.F.A. Friendship Center, South Amenia Church	April 15
Dutchess Day School Assembly	May 9

### Antique Toy Collectors & Toy Lovers

If you have an antique toy collection...

If you or your group makes toys...

If your scout troop needs a project making toys..

If your group loves to make gingerbread houses..

Show or Sell at the  
**Schoolhouse Toy Show**  
**November 2009**

**Location TBA**

*To benefit Indian Rock Schoolhouse*



# Our Members...

At last, there is an organization that makes everyone young again by remembering the past...Indian Rock Schoolhouse Association.

To re-create memories of that special time when we all were pupils in a classroom, and help present programs for today's children we count on our members for help. Coming to the 1858 Indian Rock Schoolhouse or seeing a trunk show at their school tells youngsters the story of their grandparents and their community long ago.

We are committed to making membership to the Indian Rock Schoolhouse Association easier and less confusing. Our goal is to establish a universal dues date in January of each year. By doing so, everyone would renew their membership at the same time each year. You would receive a friendly reminder only once – just in time to renew your own membership and to purchase holiday gift memberships for your friends.

As a member of Indian Rock Schoolhouse Association, you know what a special organization it is. We are all dedicated to the preservation of the Indian Rock Schoolhouse, as well as promoting the interest in local history. So if you missed your January dues...it's not too late.



*Helen and B.J. Shapiro visit the 1858 Schoolhouse*

## Indian Rock School Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal

☐ Classmate/Individual \$15 ☐ Dick, Jane & Spot/family \$25 ☐ Teacher's Pet \$100 ☐ Lifelong Learner \$500

☐ Additional tax-deductible donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I would love to lend a hand with:

\_\_\_ Grounds & Gardens \_\_\_ Arbor Day \_\_\_ Publicity \_\_\_ Program Committee \_\_\_ Trunk Exhibits

\_\_\_ Newsletter \_\_\_ Fundraising \_\_\_ Construction \_\_\_ Membership \_\_\_ Long-Term Planning

**Checks should be payable to "WCSA" & mailed to:**

Indian Rock Schoolhouse | PO Box 172 | Amenia, NY 12501



# International Arbor Day

Nestled in the foothills of the Berkshires on 154 acres off Sinpatch Road in Wassaucus is the headquarters of the World Peace Prayer Society.

We have learned from the Society that Arbor Day was introduced to Japan by Dr. Birdsey Grant Northrup, a prominent 19th century educator from neighboring Kent, Connecticut. He was the founder of Connecticut's Arbor Day and laid the foundation for the spring tradition of school children planting trees.



*Dr. Birdsey G. Northrup, Founder of Arbor Day*

Dr. Northrup's love of trees reached beyond the borders of the United States. He visited Japan and persuaded the Minister of Education there to adopt the idea of Arbor Day, called "Loving Tree Day", in that country. It is celebrated every year.

The importance of the National Arbor Day in Japan is evidenced by the attendance of the Emperor and Empress at the annual ceremonies.

## The logo for Arbor Day in Japan in 2007

Two hands suggest a heart, representing the love of forests and the smiling face reflects the approval for planting and care of trees



*Created by  
Satoshi Kawamoto of  
Nagano Prefecture*

## IN ISRAEL...

Arbor Day in Israel is an agricultural holiday celebrated in the spring when the almond trees are in blossom there. It is considered the "New Year" for trees as they begin their annual growing cycle. Children in Israel plant trees and feast on fruits and nuts that come from trees – almonds, olives, cherries, peaches, grapes, raisins, figs and apples.

Tu B'Shvat is a very ancient holiday, always celebrated on the 15th ("Tu") of the month called Shevat. It is the time in Israel when the spring rains begin, heralding a new growing season.

During Tu B'Shvat children learn that trees teach us patience – that our efforts will eventually "bear fruit" if we are willing to wait.

On Wednesday April 30th, volunteers from Temple Beth David in Amenia will help the classes learn about Arbor Day in Israel.

## PEACE SANCTUARY

On Thursday, May 1st, Shonda Sheppard and friends from the Peace Sanctuary will help dedicate the Indian Rock Peace Pole.

The Peace Pole will have the message, "Let Peace Prevail on Earth" written on it in four different languages: English, Spanish, Japanese and Hebrew. There will also be a Braille plaque with the same message for those who have sight problems.



The World Peace Prayer Society is a non-religious, non-governmental organization of the United Nations. It is open all year and welcomes visitors. The annual peace day will be held this year on August 9th.



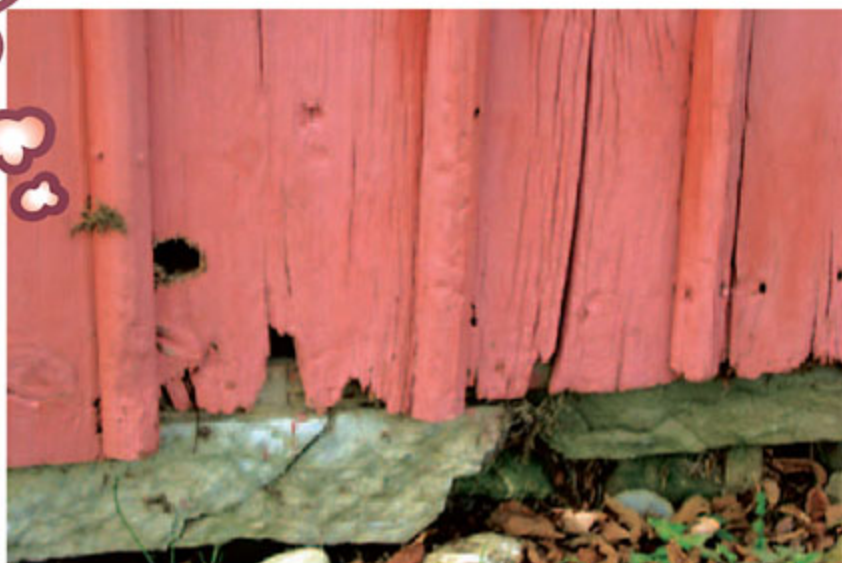
Indian Rock Schoolhouse  
Association  
PO Box 172  
Amenia, NY 12501



Did you  
remember to  
pay your dues  
for 2008?

## Who has moved into Indian Rock Schoolhouse for the winter?

A very bold animal has made a  
special round doorway for a  
winter home in the wall of our  
schoolhouse while we are not there.  
Can you find the door he chewed?  
Was it chipmunk or a squirrel?  
What can we do to fix the hole?



**Check out our blog at: [www.indianrockschool.blogspot.com](http://www.indianrockschool.blogspot.com)**